

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A filtration system comprising, a first continuous flowpath for circulation of fluid therearound; a second continuous flowpath for circulation of fluid therearound after said circulation around said first continuous flowpath, a portion of the first continuous flowpath not being included in the second continuous flowpath and the second continuous flowpath having a lower volume than the first continuous flowpath, wherein the first and second continuous flowpaths each include a filtration means and fluid circulating around each continuous flowpath being is filtered so that fluid leaves said each continuous flowpath on filtration; means for passing fluid to the first continuous flowpath in response to said filtration of fluid circulating around the first continuous flowpath; and means for passing fluid to the second continuous flowpath from the portion in response to said filtration circulating around the second continuous flowpath.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) A filtration system according to claim 1, wherein the filtration of fluid circulating around means of the first continuous flowpath comprises a tangential filtration means and the filtration of fluid circulating around means of the second continuous flowpath comprises a tangential filtration means.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) A filtration system according to claim 1, wherein said filtration of fluid circulating around each continuous flowpath is performed by filtration means associated with the filtration means of the first continuous flowpath and the filtration means of the second continuous flowpath include a filter medium which is common to both the first and second continuous flowpaths.

Claim 4. (Cancelled)

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A filtration system according to claim 43, wherein the filtration means of the first continuous flow path system comprises a plurality of filters, each filter defining a respective filter flowpath and having a respective filter medium disposed adjacent the corresponding filter flowpath for filtration of fluid passing through the corresponding filter flowpath, the first mentioned filtration means filter medium common to the first and second continuous flowpaths being associated with a subset of the plurality of filters comprising at least one but not all of the filters and the or each filter flowpath of said ~~at least one filter~~ subset of filters being included in each continuous flowpath, and the further remaining filters of the filtration means comprising the or each filter other than said at least one filter and the or each filter flowpath of said ~~the or each other filter~~ remaining filters being included in the first but not the second continuous flowpath.

Claim 6. (Original) A filtration system according to claim 5, wherein the fluid circulating around the first continuous flowpath passes in parallel through the filter flowpaths.

Claim 7. (Original) A filtration system according to claim 6, wherein the system comprises a manifold connected to each filter and included in the first continuous flowpath, the portion comprising at least part of the manifold.

Claim 8. (Original) A filtration system according to claim 7, wherein the second continuous flowpath includes at least one bypass that allows fluid to bypass said at least part of the manifold during circulation of fluid around the second continuous flowpath.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) A filtration system to claim 1, wherein the means for passing fluid to the first continuous flowpath comprises a reservoir.

Claim 10. (Original) A filtration system comprising a plurality of filters, each filter defining a respective filter flowpath extending adjacent a respective filtration medium for tangential filtration by the filtration medium of fluid passing through the filter flowpath, and a manifold connected to each filter, the system being selectively operable in a first state in which the manifold and the filter flowpaths form part of a first continuous flowpath around which fluid circulates passing in parallel through the filter flowpaths and a second state in which fluid circulates around a second continuous flowpath including the filter flowpath of at least one but not all of the filters, the second continuous flowpath having a lower volume than the first continuous flowpath and fluid passing into the second continuous flowpath from the manifold responsive to tangential filtration in the second state.

Claim 11 (Original) A filtration system according to claim 10, wherein the second continuous flowpath includes at least one bypass that allows fluid to bypass at least part of the manifold during circulation of fluid around the second continuous flowpath.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) A filtration system according to claim 10, wherein the manifold is located below the filters for drainage of fluid from the or each filter flowpath not included in the second continuous flowpath into the manifold during circulation of fluid around the second continuous flowpath.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) A filtration system according to claim 10, including means for selectively restricting flow from the or each filter flowpath of said at least one filter.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) A filtration system according to claim 11, wherein the system includes a further manifold connected to each filter and include din the first continuous flowpath, one of the manifolds providing fluid to the filters and the other one of the manifolds receiving fluid from the filters during circulation of fluid around the first continuous flowpath, the second continuous flowpath including at least one bypass that allows fluid to bypass at least part of the further manifold during circulation of fluid around the second continuous flowpath.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) A filtration system according to claim 1, wherein the system includes a pump for circulating fluid around the first continuous flowpath, the pump being inactive during circulation of fluid around the second continuous flowpath, and fluid from the pump passing into the second continuous flowpath in response to said filtration of fluid circulating around the second continuous flowpath.

Claim 16. (Original) A filtration system according to claim 15, wherein the system includes a further pump for pumping fluid around the second continuous flowpath.

Claim 17. (Original) A filtration system according to claim 16, wherein the further pump has a lower throughput than the first-mentioned pump.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) A filtration system according to claim 16, wherein the further pump holds a lower volume of fluid than the first-mentioned pump.

Claim 19. (Original) A filtration system comprising a plurality of filters, each filter defining a respective filter flowpath extending adjacent a respective filtration medium for tangential filtration by the filter medium of fluid passing through the filter flowpath, and a manifold connected to each filter for circulation of fluid through the manifold and through, in parallel, the filter flowpaths, the system being selectively operable to pass fluid from the manifold to at least one but not all of the filters.

Claim 20. (Original) A filtration system according to claim 19, wherein fluid is passed from the manifold to said at least one of the filters via a pump located between the manifold and the said at least one filter.

Claim 21. (Previously Presented) A filtration system to claim 19, including means selectively operable to restrict the flow of fluid from said at least one filter.

Claim 22. (Original) A filtration system comprising a plurality of filters, each filter defining a respective filter flowpath extending adjacent a respective filtration medium for tangential filtration by the filtration medium of fluid passing through the filter flowpath, and a manifold connected to each filter, the system being selectively operable in a first state in which the manifold and the filter flowpaths form part of a first continuous flowpath around which fluid circulates passing in parallel through the filter flowpaths and a second state in which fluid flows in a second flowpath including at least a portion of the filter flowpath of at least one of the filters, the second flowpath having a lower volume than the first continuous flowpath.

Claims 23-37. (Cancelled)